

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA**

United States of America,)	CRIMINAL PRETRIAL ORDER AND JURY TRIAL NOTICE (Stipulated Discovery)
Plaintiff,)	
vs.)	Case No.: 3:24-CR-61
Jesus Amurahaby Celestin-Ortega, Trinidad Torres Meraz, Maria De La Cruz Estrada Moreno, Jesse Rocha, Rafael Bueno-Nava, Ryan James Stevens, and Christian Ivan Gonzalez, Defendants.)	

I. TRIAL: This case has been placed on the calendar for a jury trial scheduled in the federal courthouse in Fargo, North Dakota, before the Honorable Peter D. Welte, District Judge of the United States District Court, on September 10, 2024, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The case has been scheduled for 3-5 weeks of trial.

II. DISCOVERY: The following discovery rules shall apply:

- a) Rule 16 discovery shall be accomplished by the parties without the necessity of Court intervention unless there is a dispute as to whether the matter is discoverable or there is a request for a protective order pursuant to Rule 16(d)(1). The parties are strongly encouraged to informally resolve all discovery disputes.
- b) Upon the request of the Defendant (which request shall not be filed with the Court), the Government shall comply with Rule 16(a)(1)(A-G) and its “standard discovery policy.” This includes disclosure of all written statements of the Government’s witnesses discoverable under the Jencks Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3500. It is the intent that the “standard discovery policy” be responsive to the legitimate discovery needs of defense counsel, avoid a needless waste of time in filing and answering discovery motions, and promote the early disposition of cases when appropriate. In those extraordinary cases in which the Government believes that compliance with its

“standard discovery policy” would be inappropriate, the Government shall inform the Defendant of its position at the time of the arraignment and the Court will address the matter at that time.

- c) If the Defendant requests disclosure under Rule 16(a) the Defendant shall, upon request of the Government, comply with Rule 16(b)(1)(A-C) and shall, if relevant, provide written notice of the Defendant’s intention to offer an alibi defense pursuant to Rule 12.1.
- d) The Government shall disclose to the Defendant any exculpatory material discoverable under Brady v. Maryland, 373 U.S. 83 (1963) and its progeny.
- e) Because the Government believes compliance with its “standard discovery policy” would be inappropriate in this case, the Government will conduct discovery pursuant to a stipulation with the Defendant. The Government advised the court and the Defendant of its position at the time of the arraignment.
- f) The Government and the Defendant shall make their respective expert disclosures under Rule 16(a)(1)(G) and 16(b)(1)(C) at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to trial unless otherwise ordered by the court. The Government and the Defendant shall disclose any rebuttal experts at least fourteen (14) days prior to trial unless otherwise ordered by the court.

III. MOTIONS: All motions, except motions for continuance and motions in limine, shall be filed ninety (90) days prior to trial. In the event that the court orders a continuance of trial, the motion deadline shall be extended to ninety (90) days prior to the new trial date, unless otherwise ordered by the court. An extension of time for the filing of motions will be granted only for good cause, which must be briefed by the party seeking to file the motion after the deadline. All responses to pretrial motions shall be served in accordance with D.N.D. Crim. L.R. 47.1.

IV. MOTIONS FOR CONTINUANCE: All motions for continuance shall be considered by the Court when the opposing party has filed a response. A Defendant requesting a

continuance shall file a signed waiver of the Speedy Trial Act requirements. See 18 U.S.C. § 3161. All motions for continuance shall be filed thirty (30) days prior to trial, absent exigent or otherwise extraordinary circumstances.

V. **MOTIONS IN LIMINE:** All motions in limine shall be filed at least thirty (30) days before trial. Responses to motions in limine shall be filed as soon as possible, but not later than seven (7) court days after the motion in limine is filed. The Court will consider motions in limine filed after the deadline for good cause, which must be briefed by the party seeking to file the motion in limine after the deadline.

VI. **SUBPOENAS:** This Pretrial Order shall serve to grant in advance Defendant's application for the issuance and service of subpoenas. The Office of the Clerk of the District Court shall issue blank subpoenas, signed and sealed, to counsel upon request. Counsel shall deliver completed subpoenas directly to the United States Marshal Service (USMS) for service no later than thirty (30) court days before trial. Counsel may need to demonstrate good cause to the Court if subpoenas are presented for service less than thirty (30) court days before trial. For witnesses that are in custody, counsel is advised that it can take sixty (60) or more days to arrange transportation to the District, and counsel shall work cooperatively with the USMS in advance of trial to identify necessary in custody witnesses for transportation. If the Defendant has been found to be indigent, the USMS shall serve the subpoenas and pay witness fees in the same manner as is appropriate for government witnesses.

VII. JURY INSTRUCTIONS: Each party must serve and file requests for instructions to the jury and a proposed verdict form at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the commencement of trial. Each party must also submit the instructions to chambers via e-mail to ndd_J-Welte@ndd.uscourts.gov. A party may present additional requests for instructions relating to issues arising during the trial at any time prior to the argument. All requests for instructions must be plainly marked with the number of the case and must designate the party submitting the request. Each requested instruction must be numbered and written on a separate page, together with the citation of authorities supporting the proposition of law stated in the instruction. A party requesting an Eighth Circuit or North Dakota pattern jury instruction need only designate the pattern jury instruction number and name, unless the pattern instruction is modified. If the pattern instruction is modified, the entire instruction must be submitted and must be clearly identified as modified.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2024.

/s/ Alice R. Senechal
Alice R. Senechal, Magistrate Judge
United States District Court